

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 through 13, 15 through 17, and 22 are pending, with Claims 1, 9, and 22 being independent. Claims 1, 6 through 10, 16, 17, and 22 have been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 through 13, 15 through 17, and 22 again were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,949,955 (Nakai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,687,160 (Aotake, et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,751,887 (Nitta, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, reproducing (a) moving image data and (b) management information, in combination with instructing a reproduction start of the contents independently of a selecting operation, wherein, in response to the selecting operation when the plurality of representative images are displayed *before* the reproduction start instruction, the reproducing means reproduces a predetermined amount of the moving image data of the contents concerning the selected representative image to write the predetermined amount in the memory and the reproduction processing means does not effect reading out the written predetermined amount (wherein the reproduction processing means starts readout of the predetermined amount in response to the reproduction start instruction).

Claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, reproducing (a) moving image data and (b) management information, in combination with instructing reproduction start independently of a selecting operation, with controlling so that when the menu screen (including a plurality of representative images) is being displayed by the displaying means before the reproduction start instruction, the reproducing means reproduces a predetermined amount of the moving image data of the contents concerning each of the plurality of representative images to write the predetermined amount in

the memory (wherein in response to the reproduction start instruction, the reproduction processing means reads out and outputs the predetermined amount, concerning the selected representative image).

Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, reproducing (a) moving image data and (b) management information, in combination with instructing reproduction start independently of a selecting operation, with controlling so that when the menu screen (including a plurality of representative images) is being displayed by the displaying means before the reproduction start instruction, the reproducing means reproduces the moving image data of a predetermined amount from each of the plurality of predetermined reproduction start positions and to write the moving image data in the memory, and in response to the reproduction start instruction, starting to read out the stored moving image data at the reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative image.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Nakai, Aotake, et al., and Nitta, et al., even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 9, and 22.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nakai shows, e.g., displaying title information, chapter information, etc. (Figs. 60A, 60B, etc.), and that upon start of reproduction, a menu screen is displayed to select a reproduction condition such as a contents title, and reproduction follows the selection (e.g., col. 35), i.e., upon selection of the reproduction conditions, the reproduction process is effected to decode reproduced video data.

Applicant respectfully submits that the title information, chapter information, etc., of Nakai is *not* data of a moving image as in the above-discussed claimed features but instead is

management information, and that Nakai is silent at least as regards the above-discussed claimed features.

Applicant respectfully submits that Aotake, et al. shows, e.g., selecting and reproducing a play item included in a selection list (e.g., Fig. 8).

Thus, Applicant submits that Nakai and Aotake, et al. merely show, e.g., reproducing the moving image data from the recording medium when a reproduction instruction is provided. And, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that even if Nakai, Aotake, et al., and Nitta, et al. could be combined, *arguendo*, the combination would be silent at least as regards the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 9, and 22.

Applicant further submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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